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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SURPLUS MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. SMA-SL 9



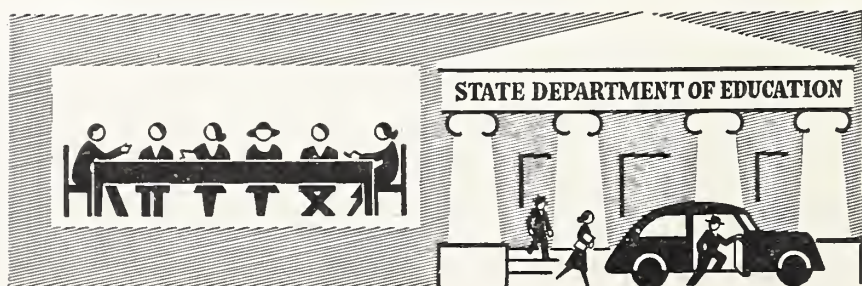
SCHOOL LUNCHES and the SCHOOLS

Five million of the nine million school children probably suffering from undernourishment or at least from inadequate diets are grateful to American school officials for the chance to satisfy the gnawing aches of insufficient food during the school day. These five million children attending 57,000 and more schools in all of the States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and the Hawaiian Islands are beginning to feel the benefits of school lunches prepared of nourishing food and have come to recognize a real lunch as the high spot in the school day. School officials too are recognizing the benefits revealed in improved attendance, improved attitudes and attainments, and in improved community interest.

The Surplus Marketing Administration, in making available surplus foodstuffs to State welfare agencies for distribution to community school lunches fully recognizes the splendid achievements of State Commissioners of Education and their staffs, of county and local school superintendents and of principals and teachers in developing this program for America's children. For that reason the roles of these several cooperating school units are outlined.

THE ROLE OF STATE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION

Commissioners, members of State boards of education and their associates, in recognizing the desirability of expanding the community school lunch program, have moved in numerous ways to achieve an expansion of the program from three million participants last year to over five million this year. First, as sponsors of W. P. A. (State-wide) school lunch projects, many Commissioners have guaranteed the supplementary help of women workers to aid in the preparation of the food and the serving of the children. Next, they have acted as the clearing-house for information and program planning, by coordinating their efforts with those of the State welfare agencies, and with the numerous Federal, State, and local agencies. State educational field staffs in many States have been instrumental in assisting county and local officials to inaugurate new programs or to expand existing programs to reach a greater number of deserving children. Articles have been prepared for State school publications, communications transmitted to school personnel throughout the State, and radio programs have been participated in; all having to do with informing *school* people, patrons and organizations of the operations and benefits of the school lunch program. Since the school lunch program is basically a *school* program and is more curricular than extra-curricular in nature, it is only natural that the type and manner of operating, although left to local determination, should receive guidance and direction from the State Commissioner of Education.



THE ROLE OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS



**COUNTRY
SCHOOL**

Many outstanding child feeding programs operating with commendable success are directly attributable to county superintendents who have personally visited and planned with teachers and parents for initiating such programs. Many have assumed the responsibility of calling together the key persons in various organizations, thereby



pooling all local resources and initiative to accomplish the common purpose of feeding hungry children. Many have acted as the county clearing house for accepting school applications for surplus commodities and forwarding such applications to the proper local or State welfare officials for immediate attention. Many have answered the prevailing belief and statement, "It's desirable, but can't be done," with the reply, "Feeding children is not only desirable but essential, it can and will be done!"—and it *has* been done.



CITY SCHOOL

THE ROLE OF THE PRINCIPAL AND CLASSROOM TEACHER

Both ultimate and immediate results in a community school lunch program center around the principal or classroom teacher. It is he who must assume many new and trying tasks in addition to the already full load, if any satisfactory program is accomplished. Principals and teachers generally have recognized that real teaching includes many factors in addition to the somewhat simple routine of enlarging the child's scope of factual interests and developing basic skills of learning. They recognize the need for health, proper physical and mental tone, for regular attendance—in fact the need for any and all of those things which will give the child a better background each day to accomplish his school tasks more readily and more surely. Teachers, in the absence of available facilities for lunch programs, have converted cloakrooms, laboratories, closets and other space into miniature kitchens; desks have been transformed into attractive dining tables and a classroom has become in a period of minutes a place of happiness as the youngsters begin their best and sometimes their only good meal of the day. Teachers long have known that a hungry child is a poor student, that a child with insufficient or improper food is a potential problem. Through the school lunch they have recognized the possibility of increasing the span of attention and the receptive mood so necessary to achieve the best classroom results. To be sure, they realize the extra labor for themselves, the worry at times to make both ends of the lunch project meet, and the added burden of responsibility which they must assume; however, they write these factors off as being only incidental to the benefits which outweigh them. It has been gratifying to citizens throughout the country to witness the pooling of energies and facilities of schools, welfare, health, civic and governmental agencies in a common cause to safeguard children.



THE ROLE OF FEDERAL AGENCIES

Work Projects Administration



The W. P. A. through two projects (usually State-wide), the commodity distribution and school lunch projects, continues to recognize the justification of enlarging quotas and expanding the attention devoted to the community school lunch programs. In every area where satisfactory W. P. A. labor is available and assignment quotas permit, the W. P. A. is making every effort, within certain basic minimum structures, to initiate new programs and enlarge existing ones.

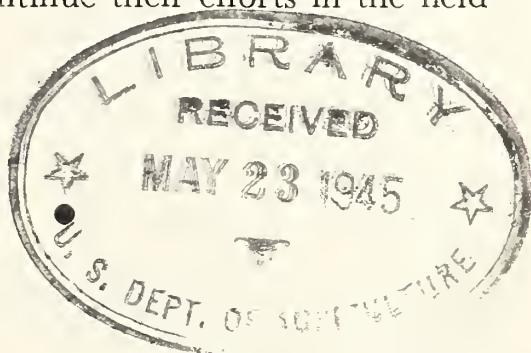
National Youth Administration

The National Youth Administration provides youth labor to schools for preparing and serving food and maintaining lunchrooms. The N. Y. A., like the W. P. A., is assisting in building new lunchroom additions on school buildings and renovating and reconditioning existing facilities to provide for greater numbers of deserving children.

Surplus Marketing Administration



The Surplus Marketing Administration in its surplus removal programs continues to purchase agricultural commodities which are in surplus and for which producers need Federal assistance. In donating these foodstuffs to State welfare agencies for subsequent distribution to needy families and school lunches many items are reserved exclusively for school lunches. In every State the Surplus Marketing Administration has its field representatives who concentrate on aiding school, health, and welfare authorities to initiate and continue their efforts in the field of child feeding.



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING COMMUNITY SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAMS, WRITE TO YOUR STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE, THROUGH WHOM SURPLUS COMMODITIES ARE DISTRIBUTED.

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